

Hi Folks,

I am writing to express my concern about mowing Battis farm next summer. In the past, mowing at Battis wasn't a problem because hay wasn't always the crop of choice. However, over the last several years, hay has been grown; and, needless to say, Bobolinks and other meadow birds have discovered it and have met an early demise. Since this is conservation land, it seems counter intuitive to kill protected birds due to our mowing practices. Last year, the fields were mowed early and hay was harvested and just left there. In a court of law, the farmer stated that the bales of hay are valued at 100 dollars each. We counted 172 bales which means that the harvest was worth at least \$17,000 dollars. I have to repeat, the hay bales are still sitting on public property. Why is that? If the hay is so valuable that it needs to be harvested early to the detriment of the birds, why is it still sitting there? Is the farmer paying for storage? It is time to start thinking about how we are going to manage the fields summer of 2019. Best practices for all stake holders are not always what is easiest to manage. Also, I would like those hay bales removed from last summer. Public land is not where the hay should be stored from year to year. Are we going to double the bales that are currently there this year? I actually pay a lot of taxes for my river view, and I don't think that comes with hay bales. Also, I question if these are an enticing hazard for kids to play and get hurt on? Are these bales a potential law suit?

Please, let's work on this now so it is not a crisis when it happens in June. There is really not a lot of time. Thanks. I will be most happy to work with you on managing the mowing of Battis next summer, just let me know.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Lucas

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